

# Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

May 12, 2003

Vol. 03, No.6

## Wet Conditions Slow Spring Field Progress

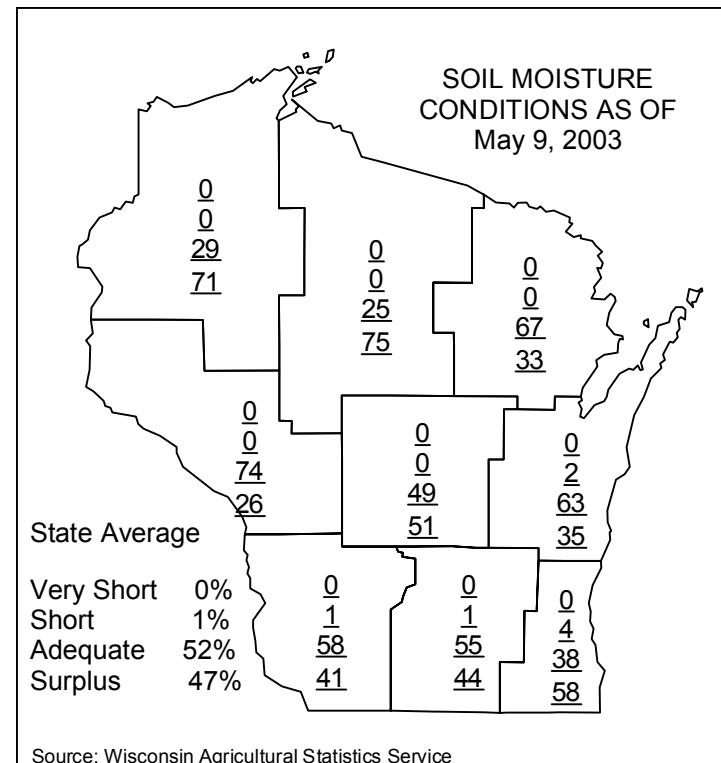
Rain was the news maker for the past week in Wisconsin agriculture. Precipitation totaled over 2 inches, statewide. Showers were present throughout the whole week and stopped most fieldwork. There was an average of only 1.9 days suitable for fieldwork last week. Most of the field activity was early in the week. Soil moisture conditions were rated as 0% very short, 1% short, 52% adequate, and 47% surplus. Rainfall amounts for the period of March 1 to May 11, are now above normal for most of the state. The only area still behind in precipitation is the Milwaukee area, and they are less than one inch behind normal. Topsoil moisture is certainly adequate for crops, and the subsoil moisture levels should be replenishing themselves. Mother's Day weekend saw additional storms with rains and some damaging winds. Temperatures for the week were close to normal levels for this time of year. Pasture field conditions were reported as 1% very poor, 5% poor, 23% fair, 50% good, and 21% excellent. Pastures have been slow to improve, but should recover quickly with warm weather and sun, now that moisture concerns are past.

Since fieldwork was not on the front burner, many producers used the time to check **alfalfa** stands for damage from winterkill. Most of the damage to fields was in older stands or fields that were cut late last year. New seeding appears to be in good shape. Some stands that appeared to be good are now showing signs of stress. Fields showing significant damage will probably be reseeded or switched to other crops once fields dry out. **Winter wheat** conditions were reported as 1% very poor, 3% poor, 21% fair, 53% good, and 22% excellent. A reporter in Jefferson County mentioned that recent storms caused some winter wheat that was over a foot tall to lodge. Most wheat is still in good shape.

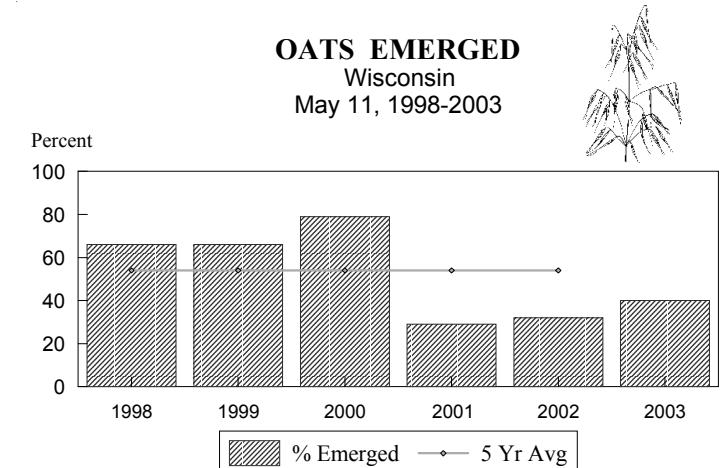
Even with the wet weather, **corn** planting continued where tractors were able to work. No-till planting on sod was possible and allowed the state average corn planted to advance to 42% complete for the week. This compares to 33% last year and the 5-year average of 53% complete. Some early-planted fields were beginning to emerge, but most of the corn planted is still not up. Wet field conditions have kept most **soybeans** in the bag and not in the ground. Soybeans planted was reported to be 8% complete, behind both the 17% last year and the 5-year average of 19% planted.

**Oats** planted statewide reached 76% for the week. Oats emerged was at 40%, compared to last year's 32% emerged and the 5-year average of 54% emerged. Wet fields and cold ground have kept the crop slightly behind schedule. A Dodge County reporter stated that oats and **barley** in his area were flourishing in this weather.

Weather conditions have kept **spring tillage** operations from being completed due to wet fields. Tillage was ranked as 60% complete, compared to 48% last year and the 5-year average of 72% completed. Portage County reported that they still have some **potatoes** to go in the ground. **Fruit trees** were in bloom over most of the state for the week. **Cranberry** growers have been keeping an eye on bog temperatures at night in central Wisconsin.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of May 9, 2003					
Item	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Pasture	1	5	23	50	21
Winter wheat	1	3	21	53	22
Oat	0	4	21	63	12



## Wisconsin Crop Progress, May 11, 2003

Crop and percent of acreage	District average								State average			
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This year	Last year	5-year average
Spring tillage completed	52	42	56	59	63	56	71	68	69	60	48	72
Oats planted	59	42	65	80	86	80	96	95	94	76	62	85
Oats emerged	12	4	8	47	34	26	76	77	81	40	32	54
Corn planted	19	18	22	40	44	39	53	50	55	42	33	53
Soybeans planted	1	2	3	2	15	7	12	9	6	8	17	19

## Wisconsin Crop Weather

### Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

**BAYFIELD-S.S.**: Some oats being planted. Some fields still have frost coming out.

**POLK-R.T.**: Winter wheat stands are seemingly in good shape. The alfalfa stands have been hit hard by this last winter. Spring tillage and the planting of oats and corn has been slowed by rainfall; less than 10 percent of the corn acreage has been planted.

**MARATHON-K.B.**: More alfalfa damage is showing up weekly. Some flooding of low lands from the recent rains. We need a stretch of warm and dry weather.

**TAYLOR-D.E.**: Reports of winterkill on alfalfa are coming in. The shoots will green up a little and then die. Spring tillage was doing great until last week. There is concern that some fields will have to be replanted. Heavy rains over the weekend only created more delay in spring planting.

**FOREST-A.K.**: Hayfields are greening up nicely. Some oats planted.

**LANGLADE-K.W.**: Another inch of rain fell here over the weekend. Will take some time for farmers to get back into the fields

**PEPIN-R.W.**: Very wet week. Need lots of sunshine to get the planters rolling again.

**ST CROIX-R.K.**: Alfalfa looks good, some fields that were cut late show some damage. Winter wheat looks good also. Spring work progressing well. Some needed rain has slowed down corn planting.

**MARQUETTE-K.V.**: Much-needed rain will help emergence of corn, oats, and get the pastures started. Subsoil moisture still short, so we need steady rains over the next month. Pastures are slow getting started, and a few days of sunshine will help. Alfalfa is slow in starting, and we do not expect any harvesting until June.

**WOOD-F.M.**: Lots of tillage and planting of 1st to 4th crop oats, seeding, planting corn and soybeans. Alfalfa and hay crops growing with more moisture, but needs warmer weather.

**FOND DU LAC-V.F.**: No winterkill, but late wheat slow to start, but will get there. Oats all planted. Planting stopped because of rain, but alfalfa sure needed the rain.

**OUTAGAMIE-F.P.**: Some alfalfa fields are showing damage, which they did not earlier this spring. Some fields are very wet.

**GRANT-E.B.**: We went from dry to wet in one week; standing

water in many fields. The cool, wet conditions have slowed crop growth. Pastures and hay prospects look good.

**IOWA-K.R.**: Alfalfa looks excellent, perfect weather for both alfalfa and winter wheat. Almost all the no-till corn is planted. Corn has started to emerge, looks great.

**SAUK-D.H.**: Alfalfa looks very good.

**COLUMBIA-R.S.**: Some spots in fields have winterkill in both winter wheat and alfalfa. It sounds like a lot of alfalfa will be reseeded. There is a lot of corn in already, but still a lot to go.

**DODGE-G.R.**: Alfalfa is looking very good. Older stands have grassy patches, probably not related to winterkill. Winter wheat is alright, but still behind last year. Very limited amount of time for fieldwork due to rain-filled days. Moisture much-needed and appreciated; however, corn planting will be significantly delayed. Oats and barley are flourishing in this weather.

**GREEN-F.Z.**: Alfalfa and grasses growing good, one inch in height. Everything is growing good.

**JEFFERSON-B.K.**: Wheat is growing very slowly, probably will not be heading for at least three weeks. Some farmers are almost done planting corn, but many have not even started. Soybeans are not in either.

**WASHINGTON-R.B.**: No reseeding of alfalfa. New seeding looks good, but older stands do not look alright. Alfalfa has winterkill. Wheat that is late-planted is still not right-slow growing. Too wet. Sunday farmers were in fields planting corn. Water is starting to stand in fields. Corn planted in late April has emerged-looks yellow. We need some sun.



Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service  
P.O. Box 8934  
Madison, WI 53708-8934  
(608) 224-4848  
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/wi/rsetoc.htm>

Robert J. Battaglia  
State Statistician

Bob Hunter  
Statistician

This report has been made possible through the cooperative efforts of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, and the National Weather Service.

### Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on May 11, 2003

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation			
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg dep. from normal*	Mar. 1 to May 10	Mar. 1 to May 10 normal *	Last week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	62	45	68	40	53	-2	297	205	2.70	8.17	2.34	9.13
Green Bay	60	42	70	30	51	-2	181	168	2.04	6.72	1.31	7.87
La Crosse	63	46	71	40	55	-2	318	247	2.36	7.30	0.84	8.39
Madison	63	46	74	34	55	0	271	245	2.18	6.91	0.27	7.77
Milwaukee	61	42	81	36	52	-1	195	n.a.	2.03	6.50	-0.88	7.29

1/Formula used: GDD = (daily maximum (86°) + daily minimum (50°))/2-50°; where 86° is used if the maximum exceeds 86° and 50° is used if the minimum falls below 50°. \*Normal based on 1961-90 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>>. N.a. = not available. T = trace.